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18 January 1961

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



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Moscow, Peiping, and Hanoi have now all accepted a proposal made by Prince Sihanouk for a 14-nation conference on Laos. The meeting would presumably be held in Cambodia and would include representatives from Burma, Thailand, and South Vietnam, along with the 1954 Geneva participants and member countries of the ICC for Laos. This maneuver, which capitalizes on growing Asian concern over the course of events in Laos, seems intended to retain the bloc's initiative on the diplomatic front and provide a means to obstruct any suggested solutions to the Laotian crisis on Western terms.

The bloc may also feel that endorsement of the proposal will encourage what it claims is increasing evidence of disagreement among the Western allies concerning a policy toward Laos.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

CONGO

In Katanga Province, the initiative remains with Gizenga forces and their tribal allies. Stanleyville troops and dissident Baluba tribesmen apparently control the UN-policed "neutral zone" in the northern part of the province, with the UN unable to take any countermeasures.

In Elisabethville, Katanga's capital, President Tshombe's distrust of his African troops apparently is growing, and the native civilians in many of the province's important mining cities reportedly are increasingly restive. Tshombe's regime

may be recruiting a European foreign legion to serve as a reserve security force.

In the Leopoldville area, a brief anti-Mobutu mutiny in the army appears to have been

put down, but the questionable reliability of the troops has further jeopardized Mobutu's ability to meet the military challenge from Stanleyville.

Lumumba's transfer from the Leopoldville army camp to Elisabethville probably was designed to increase the security control over the ex-premier. It may also be connected with the forthcoming round-table conference of Congolese leaders, now scheduled for February in Elisabethville.

Relations between the UN and the Kasavubu government continue to worsen. On 14 January Kasavubu demanded that Rajeshwar Dayal, Hammarskjold's personal representative, leave the Congo.

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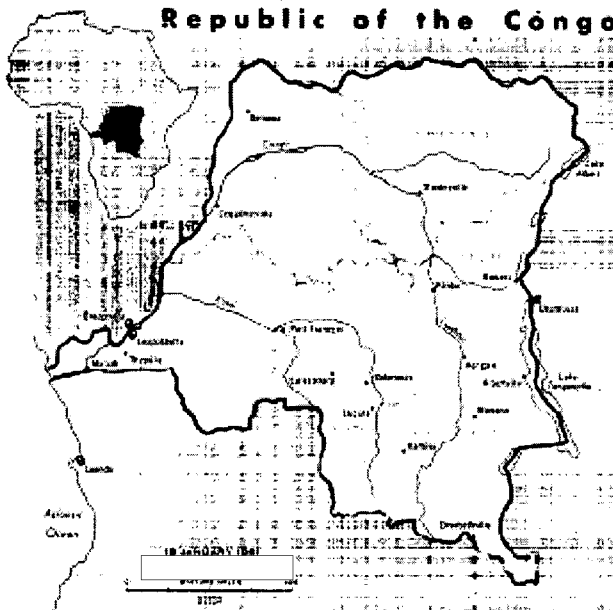
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however, Hammarskjold publicly reiterated his confidence in Dayal and refused to recall him.

Before he received Kasavubu's demand, Hammarskjold had told American officials that he was "very determined" to keep Dayal in the Congo, despite a campaign of "Russian-type" innuendo which he implied was coming from Western sources. Subsequently he added that public pressure would prevent his yielding to Kasavubu's request. He informed Kasavubu that the problem would be turned over to the Security Council.

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

CUBAN AND HAITIAN DEVELOPMENTS

Havana is making a new effort to eliminate the potential threat posed by anti-Castro guerrillas in the mountains of central Cuba. There are some indications that Fidel Castro himself is directing the anti-guerrilla operations. The new drive is evidently motivated by recognition that as long as there remains a rallying point inside Cuba, the resistance could snowball into a major effort, as Castro's own experience proved.

There was a smaller turnout than usual at the 14 January rally in Havana, called to obtain the "peoples' ratification" of government preparations to resist the "imperialist invasion" the

government had been describing as imminent for more than two weeks. Fidel Castro and President Dorticos explained, in the former's words, that "any criminal surprised in the act of committing a crime can be stopped before he commits it," thus implying that Cuba's preparedness had stopped the invasion.

It was announced at the rally that the "national mobilization" would be continued through 20 January, and the hope was expressed that the new administration in the United States would "make rectifications" toward Cuba. However, Castro went on, "the headache is not ours.... If there is no rectification, that is also very good."

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PART I

OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

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